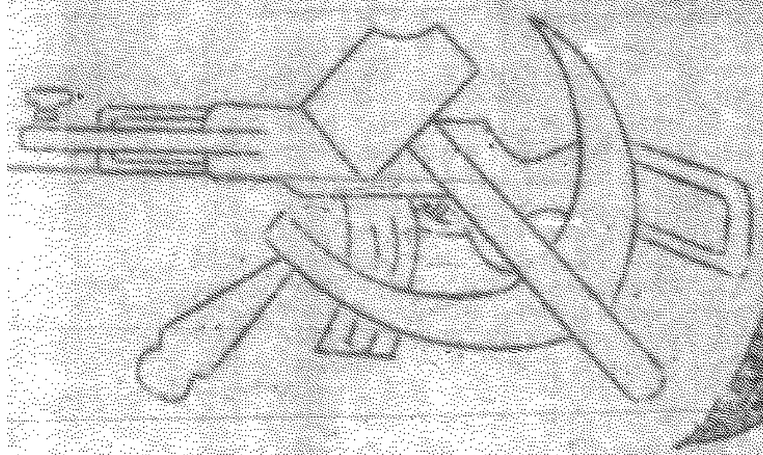
PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAISIPANG MAO TSE-TUNG

ANG Bayan



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MNLF ADVANCES POLITICAL LINE, SEES NEED FOR A UNITED FRONT

The Moro National Liberation Front took still another big step forward in elaborating its political line when it openly recognized the need for a broadly based national united front against the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship.

Through Mahardika, official organ of the MNLF Central Committee, the Front said "the real fight...is between the militant and progressive groups who stand for radical social change on the one hand and the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship on the other".

The MNLF publication was commenting on the 10-point program of the National Democratic Front which provides in part:

"The national minorities have the right to liberate themselves from oppression (by the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime) and determine their own destiny. The right to self-determination includes the right to secede from a state of national oppression, or choose autonomy within a state that guarantees the equality of nationalities."

Mahardika acknowledged the need for a united front between the national democratic forces and the MNLF on condition that "any cooperation, even if tactical, among all militant opposition groups...must actively exert all efforts to achieve two aims: one is the victory of the oppressed masses of the Filipino people in the northern and central parts of the country, and second, the victory of the oppressed and colonized Bangsa Moro people in the south..."

The victory of the Moro people, it added, "must be accompanied with the recognition (by the national democratic forces) of their right to self-determination".

Actually, the national democratic forces within the NDF, which include the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, not only recognize but are militantly fighting for the right to self-determination not only of the Moro people but all other national minorities who are being subjected to national and class oppression by the fascist dictatorship.

As regards the Moro people's struggle for self-determination, the Party, the people's army and the national democratic mass organizations have been assiduously carrying out propaganda work--written and verbal--to explain the justice of their cause.

This national democratic propaganda campaign is being waged to combat the vicious campaign of slander that the U.S.-Marcos clique has mounted against the MNLF, its military arm, the Bangsa Moro Army, and the Moro people.

Fighting shoulder to shoulder

All national democratic mass publications--from Dangdang, Bagong-kuas and Ranget in Northern Luzon to Asdang in Mindanao--have taken pains to explain to the Filipino people the oppression of their brother Moros and their valiant struggle to liberate themselves.

And although there has been no formal agreement between the NDF and the MNLF, NPA Red fighters and BMA fighters have in effect been helping one another by waging armed struggle against a common enemy--the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime.

Right in Mindanao, the NPA and the BMA have been fighting shoulder to shoulder against the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines--the BMA in predominantly Moro areas and the NPA in areas where non-Moro Filipinos predominate.

This way, the two revolutionary armed forces stretch the counter-revolutionary armed forces so that they cannot concentrate on a single target.

Abroad, there have also been occasions when the NDF and the MNLF jointly presented the people's cause against the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship, as in the International Conference on Cultural Imperialism in Algiers, Algeria, in October 1977. The world gathering upheld the two revolutionary movements and condemned the U.S.-Marcos fascist clique.

Mahardika continued its commentary on the NDF's 10-point program by pinpointing the people's enemy as "the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, the brutal Filipino colonial administration at this stage of Philippine history, under the leadership of a fascist dictator and his power-hungry wife who are backed up by (their) American master".

"...If there is no U.S. military and economic aid," the MNLF official organ said, "the fascist administration of Marcos would not last a day in the face of the ever-increasing revolutionary resistance of the Moro people in the south and the national democratic forces in the central and northern portions of the country."

Change in society

Apparently commenting on the possibility that U.S. imperialism might trigger a coup d'etat against its puppet Marcos and replace him with anti-Marcos reactionaries, Mahardika said:

"There may be changes in the people in power but for as long as there is no corresponding change in society, the principal contradiction...will persist."

These comments by Mahardika further explain the denunciation by MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari of U.S. support for the Marcos fascist regime.

Interviewed last year by an American journalist, Misuari had said the U.S. government is "very much involved in the war" in Mindanao, and that "most of the armaments used by the Philippine armed forces against our people come from American sources". (Ang Bayan, October 31, 1978)

The MNLF chairman had also pointed to the connivance between the fascist puppet Marcos and U.S. corporations in plundering the natural resources of Mindanao, such as the massive oil exploration being undertaken in Palawan and elsewhere.

Misuari's attack on U.S. support for the Marcos fascist clique and now Mahardika's amplification represent a big advance in the MNLF's political line. Mahardika's comment on the national united front is a further step forward.

Big battle in Lanao del Sur

Meanwhile, the MNLF is persisting in armed struggle and is winning battle after battle with the AFP, according to Mahardika.

It reported on a two-week armed confrontation in Lanao del Sur from August 27 to September 8 last year in which the reactionary armed forces suffered casualties of 1,191 killed and 1,232 wounded. Mahardika said that among those killed was Col. Alvaro Adaya, chief of staff of the AFP's Southern Command (Southcom)

The badly outnumbered BMA fighters lost only 38 killed and 71 wounded and they routed the enemy forces, the MNLF official organ said.

The battle started with a major offensive launched by the AFP at barrio Bato-Bato in Maguing, Lanao del Sur, on August 27. In the assaulting force were Philippine Army (PA) units, units of the Integrated National Police and Civilian Home Defense Forces.

They were supported by jet bombers, helicopters, tanks, howitzers and mortars, Mahardika said.

At the height of the battle on September 4, there were as many as six PA battalions, one composite battalion, two PC companies and units of the INP and CHDF, with a combined strength of some 3,840 men, according to Mahardika. There were only 860 BMA fighters.

Not a word was spoken by the Marcos-controlled mass media about the two-week battle, except for an occasional fabrication about the MNLF-BMA forces "violating" the "ceasefire".

* * *

RETENTION OF U.S. BASES TRIGGERS PROTEST ACTIONS HERE AND ABROAD

The U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship continues to be confronted by people's protest movements here and abroad demanding the immediate dismantling of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

In this struggle, the Filipino people have the militant support of the American, Iranian, African and other peoples who condemn the connivance between U.S. imperialism and its puppet Marcos to maintain the bases.

Together, they picketed the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., last January 2 in protest against the new U.S.-Marcos bases agreement. The Filipinos and other foreign friends held similar mass actions on that same day in Honolulu, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago and Boston.

Here in the Philippines, a Coordinating Committee for the Dismantling of U.S. Military Bases has emerged to rally the people to unite in a powerful movement to demand the immediate removal of the bases.

The committee has an initial following of 90 students' organizations in 30 different schools in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. These organizations have a membership of 80,000.

After conducting a series of symposiums on the bases, the coordinating committee issued a statement last January 26 pointing out that the bases are here to protect the interests of corporations owned by U.S. imperialists and to perpetuate the neocolonial status of the Philippines.

According to the statement, the capitalization of these imperialist corporations had reached more than $4 billion by 1976. This capital is in the oil, mining, drug and chemicals, manufacturing and food processing industries.

It is imperialist control of the national economy that keeps the Philippines neocolonial, the statement added. U.S. imperialism wants the country to remain an exporter of raw materials and an importer of finished products, thereby stunting its progress towards industrialization.

Suppression of the revolutionary movement

The committee's statement also pointed to the counter-revolutionary role of the U.S. bases.

It was recalled that in the 1940s and 1950s, U.S. imperialism and the puppet presidents used U.S. troops and base facilities to suppress the peasants' and workers' revolutionary movement. The bases are still being used today to help the puppet Marcos suppress the surging anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist movement.

U.S. imperialism also uses these bases to launch wars of aggression on the peoples of other countries, as in Korea in the 1950s and Vietnam until imperialism's defeat in that country in 1975.

The coordinating committee's statement said that only through an organized and well-led movement asserting the people's sovereignty could the people hope to dismantle the bases. There can be no genuine independence and sovereignty and a thorough-going economic and political development in the country while the bases are here, it added.

In the protest actions in the United States early this month, patriotic and progressive Filipinos linked arms with friends of other nationalities to denounce the U.S.-Marcos bases treaty. Among the speakers at those gatherings were workers, professionals, students and church people.

Nationalist businesswoman Charito Planas told a rally in front of the U.S. State Department that the appointment of Filipino commanders and the flying of the Philippine flag at the U.S. bases do not establish Philippine sovereignty.

"...Genuine sovereignty cannot be achieved until the bases are dismantled and the U.S. military leave the Philippines," she said.

American people's support

In San Diego, California, activist Kathy Gilbert said the protest action that the Filipino people do not want the bases. "Only the Pentagon (U.S. Defense Department) and foreign multinational investments are served by their presence," she said.

In San Francisco, also in California, the Rev. Lloyd Wake said the $500 million promised Marcos by the Carter administration are taxes paid by the American people. The money should be spent on public services instead of helping sustain a fascist dictator, he added.

On the other hand, Filipino-American Philip Vera Cruz, former officer of the United Farm Workers, told the Washington rally: "Marcos' labor repression draws multinationals away from the U.S. to the Philippines, putting U.S. workers out of jobs and forcing Filipinos who cannot even strike legally to work for starvation wages."

Solidarity speeches against the U.S. bases in the Philippines were also made by Iranian student representatives and leaders of African liberation support groups.

The Iranian students pointed out that it was from Subic Bay that the U.S. aircraft carrier Constellation sailed in a futile effort to intimidate the Iranian people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist puppet Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

* * *

STUDENTS, TEACHERS BOYCOTT CLASSES TO ASSERT THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Campuses in various parts of the country are in ferment as students, teachers and non-academic personnel solidify their ranks and militantly assert their democratic rights.

Their weapons include such mass actions as walkouts and boycotts to fight for better working conditions for the teachers and non-academic personnel, and better school facilities and academic freedom for both students and teachers.

Protest actions have been reported as far north as Bataan and as far south as Lanao del Sur.

Among the most militant and prolonged of these struggles is the boycott staged by students and faculty members of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City (Lanao del Sur), where murders by the fascist military have only served to fan the flames of protest.

The boycott started in June last year due to delayed salaries of teachers, misappropriation of funds by university officials led by MSU President Ali Dimaporo, and inadequate and deteriorating school facilities.

Students and teachers alike boycotted the school for a whole month. Another boycott was called at the start of the second semester when the teachers' and students' grievances were not satisfied.

Meantime, government soldiers assigned to the university killed six students and beat up school employes in an effort to suppress dissent. The murder victims were identified as Roman P. Ranguine, Marciano Chan, Monsanto Apao, Jose Camingao, Leonardo Ayasa and Jose Trono.

Instead of being intimidated, however, students and teachers staged another walkout last December 12 and have promised not to resume classes until the murderers have been punished and their just demands granted.

Dimaporo, who is also acting chairman of the regime's bogus "autonomous region" in southern Philippines, has proved to be not only an incompetent school administrator but an embezzler of public funds. He has been pocketing money that should be paid the teachers and non-academic workers.

Boycott in UP Cebu

At the University of the Philippines College Cebu (UPCC), students staged a 14-day boycott starting last November 21 to protest the inefficiency of the school administrator, the lack of facilities for which the students pay corresponding fees, and inadequate classes and lack of teachers.

A number of professors have also filed 42 charges against the school administrator, among them for absenteeism, mismanagement, neglect of duty, and lack of professionalism.

Although a "truce" has been arranged by UP alumni in Cebu and parents of the students, contradictions between the school administrator on the one hand and the students and teachers on the other have not been resolved and UPCC continues to be an arena of struggle for the school community.

At the Araneta University Foundation in Malabon, Metro Manila, students, teachers and non-academic workers succeeded in forcing the resignation of Vicente Araneta as university president by means of strikes and mass leaves by the teachers and other school employes, and boycotts by the students.

Their complaints had to do with the unfair faculty classification and pay scales, the employes' low salaries, the use of the university for business purposes, and Ileneta's failure to keep his promise to give salary increases when the students' tuition fees were increased.

The Faculty Association and the Employes Association had the militant support of the Alyansa ng mga Samahan ng Mag-aaral (Alliance of Students' Associations).

It was a completely different issue that spurred a walkout by some 300 Bataan teachers. The teachers were among 400 government employes of 30 years of age and below who were assembled at the Bataan National School of Arts and Trades to elect officers of the provincial chapter of the Buklod ng Kabataang Kawani (Union of Young Employes).

To begin with, most of the teachers objected to membership in the BKK, which was organized to help the fascist regime spy on the revolutionary movement and to enhance the regime's image among the people.

The teachers walked out when Severino Bautista, administrative officer of the provincial government, tried to ram through the "election" of candidates who were weaklings and could easily be controlled by the regime.

The mass struggles in the country's academic communities are not apart from the struggles of the rest of the Filipino people against exploitation and oppression. They are, in fact, parts of the bigger struggles that daily erode the very foundations of an unjust society.

* * *

STRIKES PREPARING WORKING CLASS FOR LEADING ROLE IN REVOLUTION

More strikes broke out in various parts of the country in recent months, proof that the working class is growing more conscious of the need to lead other democratic classes in the struggle against exploitation and oppression.

One of the most recent was the strike declared by 800 workers of the Balayan Sugar Central, Inc. (BSCI) in Balayan, Batangas, last January 15.

Stopping operations, the workers presented 21 demands, including job reclassification, standardization of wages, free hospitalization, sick leave, security of tenure and removal of armed guards inside the central during working hours.

The workers, who are members of the Bisig ng Batangas Labor Union, first struck in April 1978 when the management refused to recognize their union. The strike was successful, but it was followed by the arrest of union leaders.

Last January 19, the Ministry of Labor ordered the workers to return to work within 24 hours, otherwise their strike would be declared illegal. The workers refused. Up to this writing, the strike is still going on.

The principal stockholders of the BSCI are Soledad Dolor, a big landlord and assemblywoman in the bogus Batasang Pambansa, and the Philippine National Bank.

Hacienda workers

In Victoria, Laguna, some 400 workers of the Fernando-Cayco Farms struck last December 14 demanding higher wages, 13th-month pay and Christmas bonus, according to Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (December 31, 1978).

The hacienda harvests 130 cavans of rice per hectare. The hacienda's big income is further proven by the recent procurement of tractors and the hiring of an agriculturist receiving P29,000 a year.

The workers are also fighting against the management's selective granting of sick leave and vacation leave, low rates for overtime and for work on the night shift, indiscriminate lay-offs, low retirement pay, and the abuses of the overseer.

BMP also reported that students of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños showed their solidarity with the workers by joining the picket line and soliciting help for the strikers. The fascist military fired shots into the air in an attempt to break the strong unity of the students and workers, BMP said.

Also in Mindanao, striking workers of the Davao Chewing Tobacco scored a victory when the management was forced to give in to their demands.

The strikers, who are all women, fought for the implementation of the minimum wage law, vacation leave, sick leave and maternity leave, aside from free hospitalization and Christmas bonus.

According to Asdang, revolutionary newspaper in Mindanao (December 1978), the strike started November 6 and ended November 14. The MOL and the fascist military harassed the strikers by breaking the picket line and arresting 12 picketing workers while a negotiation was going on.

After a few weeks, the workers faced another maneuver by the capitalist who announced his plan to close down the factory which produces chewing tobacco, allegedly because of his losses and his old age. Because of this, the militant women workers are waging new forms of struggle to safeguard their right to work.

Another strike in Mindanao

Also successful was the strike of some 400 workers of the plywood division of Vicmar Development Corporation in Cagayan de Oro City, also in Mindanao.

By waging a strike which lasted 20 days, from November 14 to December 4, the workers forced management to pay their salaries which had been delayed for five months, according to Asdang (December 1978).

The military again interfered in this strike. The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) interrogated the strike leaders in an effort to force them to admit who "incited" them to strike. But the militant workers firmly replied that their exploitation forced them to unite and fight.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Miners of the Philippines (FMP) demanded the lifting of martial law in some parts of the country and the restoration of the right to strike, in resolutions approved at their convention last December 10 in Manila.

The federation could have gathered more courage to demand the lifting of martial law in the entire country, and refused to be fooled by the so-called normalization program of the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime.

The PMP called for full restoration of the workers' right to strike, an across-the-board wage increase, the right of workers in government-controlled or -owned corporations to unionise, and the passage of a law requiring union membership for every worker.

Economic and political struggles

These struggles clearly show the intensifying economic struggle within the system ruled by U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

Economic struggles in the factories are only initial steps, although they are necessary and justified. The toiling masses must take the decisive step of raising their economic struggles to the level of political struggles to attain true democracy and prosperity.

In the document "Our Urgent Tasks", the Party Central Committee makes this call:

"We must promote the strike movement and must make it so widespread and so intense to demonstrate to the entire nation and people that the fascist ruling clique and the big bourgeoisie are so puny and weak and so rotten to the core. We must promote the economic strikes and transform them into political strikes and political demonstrations. We must hit the big bourgeoisie (the foreign monopoly capitalists and the comprador big bourgeoisie) the hardest. The rate of exploitation is highest in their enterprises."

The document also stated: "In this time of severe economic crisis, the masses of workers are stirring and pushing forward their economic struggle. We must get into this economic struggle and raise it to the level of the political struggle so that the entire working class will not only be able to fight most effectively for its own interests but also link itself fully with the rest of the people in the powerful flow of the people's democratic revolution."

* * *

MASSES, NPA SHOW FINE EXAMPLE OF HOW TO DISINTEGRATE CHDFs

The revolutionary mass movement in the countryside is wrecking the reactionary government's scheme to use CHDF paramilitary forces in blocking the advance and growing strength of the armed struggle led by the New People's Army.

Two recent reports, from Ifugao and Pampanga, prove that victories are won by the revolutionary people when they are firmly united and uphold the armed struggle that is destroying the enemy's strength in the vast Philippine countryside.

In Ifugao province, the people of several barrios acted together to dismantle a PC-CHDF unit that had been established to break up the close ties between the masses and the people's army and cut off the former's support for the NPA.

When the fascist unit was set up in 1977 in barrio Loboong, Banawe, the people were told they would have to live in the barrio center, and they were then forced to stay at the CHDF headquarters and near the schoolhouse, according to Dangadang, mass newspaper in Northwestern Luzon (September 1978).

The people were prohibited from leaving the barrio, working in their small clearings, gathering firewood and continuing with their woodcarving. On the other hand, they were given no other source of income.

While the people were kept like prisoners inside the barrio, the fascist military exploited and abused them even more. Extortion, threats, maulings and shooting incidents were common.

So a mass campaign was launched to smash the PC-CHDF unit in the barrio. The people militantly protested and refused to obey their orders. Their relatives pressured individual CHDF members to resign.

People in the neighboring barrios of Bokiawan, Napao and Nunggulungen, meanwhile, made common cause with the Loboong residents' struggle. They fought against the PC-CHDF order forbidding travel between the different barrios.

On March 3, 1978, an NPA unit ambushed and killed an abusive PC trooper who was one of those leading the CHDF unit in Loboong. "The people were overjoyed," Dangadang reported, "and fear struck the hearts of the fascist military. From then on, the CHDF unit in Loboong began to crumble. Its members left the barrio one by one, others resigned. The two remaining PC soldiers were forced to return to their own camp."

Weapons are recalled in Pampanga

Last December 15, in Pampanga, the reactionary military recalled the weapons issued to CHDF units in 25 barrios in the town of Mexico, fearing their seizure by the NPA.

The order to recall the arms was issued by Camp Olivas, PC-INP Region III headquarters, aiming to prevent their confiscation by the people's army, according to the mass newspaper Himagsik (January-February 1978).

Those peasants who had been forced to join the CHDF were glad to have been disbanded. It meant that they would have more time to work on the farm, which had been neglected because they were required to do guard duty at CHDF headquarters and join raiding operations against the people's army.

Others, who had committed crimes against the people, lived in terror upon losing their guns, Himagsik said. Many of them took to sleeping in the municipal building while others left the town.

The NPA had carried out a series of operations to disarm CHDF units, the latest of which was the raid on Tuklong, Sta. Ana, Pampanga, last November 17. Thirteen rifles were added to the arsenal of the people's army in this raid.

But the reactionary government has not given up its CHDF program. According to a new policy, CHDF members must devote their full time to counter-revolutionary activities. Instead of receiving salaries from the reactionary government like the regular troopers, they have been promised P100 monthly, to be paid by the peasants in the barrio. In addition, each farmworker is being required to give P2 to provide CHDF men with cigarettes and snacks.

The reactionary state wants to increase the total number of CHDF personnel, who now total 75,499 all over the country, according to the regime's Defense Ministry. Plans are being made to recruit young people who are being given military training in school under the CAT program, for example. These youths will be used as additional forces in the campaign to suppress the people rising in struggle.

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But the parents are fully aware of the senselessness of sending their children to die in the service of the fascist dictatorship. Thus, they are not allowing their children to become tools in the reactionary state's vicious schemes.

Acting together, the people and their army are dismantling CHDF forces all over the country, and the latter's weapons are being seized and used to overthrow the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship's fascist rule.

* * *

COCONUT INDUSTRY MAKES BILLIONS BUT PEASANTS' PLIGHT WORSENS

Peasants' exploitation is intensifying in the coconut plantations on the Quezon-Bicol border, according to the maiden issue of Balikwas (November 30, 1978), revolutionary mass newspaper in the area.

The newspaper revealed that local landlords are fast changing the sharing arrangement from tersyohan to pormilan, in order to increase their share of the peasants' hard-earned harvest.

Under the system called tersyohan, peasants get only one-third of the entire sale of the coconut harvest, although they shoulder the expenses for harvesting, gathering and husking and for making copra out of coconuts. Besides, they are the ones who plant and take care of the coconut trees until these bear fruit and become fully productive.

Tersyohan is bad, but pormilan is worse. Under the latter, the peasants' share of the harvest is fixed to a certain number for every 1,000 harvested coconuts. Under tersyohan, the peasants earn only about ₱150 per 1,000 nuts. Under pormilan, they get much less, from ₱55 to ₱80. The landlords' share has thus increased by 100 percent or even greater.

Added to this, the peasants are deprived of the right to live on the coconut lands. They are called in only when there is a particular job to be done.

The landlords subject the peasants to many other impositions. Under tersyohan, the peasants are prohibited from raising pigs and using coconut graters other than those allowed by the landlords, allegedly to avoid waste. Landlords even demand that the coconut shells, which the peasants make into charcoal, still be divided according to tersyohan.

In Camarines Norte, landlords send inspectors, better known as bisitador, to the plantations to enforce the landlords' wishes among the peasants. The bisitador counts the nuts in the trees to make sure that every coconut is accounted for during harvest time. Otherwise, the bisitador dismisses the peasants from work to replace them with others who can be made to work under more exploitative arrangements.

Added burden from the government

Every year, landlords rake in billions of pesos from exporting copra to capitalist countries and also from selling the product inside the Philippines. Last year, more than ₱6 billion worth of copra was sold here and abroad. Greedy for more wealth, the landlords intensify their exploitation of the toiling people on the coconut plantations.

Balikwas pointed out that the bankrupt Marcos government has not paid any attention to the plight of the peasants in the coconut plantations. The newspaper said the reactionary government has even imposed another burden on the peasant masses by forcing them to pay contributions to the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, or COCOFED, the powerful association of coconut landlords in the country.

Balikwas called upon the peasantry to unite, organize and fight to win control of the land they till. They will surely achieve this goal step by step as they join the revolutionary armed struggle now being launched by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its people's army to overthrow the class rule of the landlords and the imperialists who dictate to them and support them at the same time.

* * *

GOV'T WORKERS, EMPLOYEES ORGANIZE TO OPPOSE NEW REFORESTATION TAX

Government workers and employees are up in arms against a plan of the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship to impose upon each of them a P2 monthly special tax supposedly to finance the regime's reforestation program.

The workers and employees are now organising in the various government agencies to oppose not only the proposed P2 additional tax but all other oppressive impositions of the regime.

The extra tax was first proposed by the dictator's wife, Imelda Marcos, a few days after typhoon "Kading" killed hundreds of people and devastated vast areas of the country last October 26.

The widespread flooding that came with the typhoon has been traced directly to the denudation of the country's forests. The denudation of the forests, on the other hand, has been the handiwork of U.S. and Japanese imperialist firms and Filipino compradors.

When she made her proposal, Imelda Marcos said that since there are 5 million government personnel throughout the country, the regime could collect P10 million a month or P120 million a year for its tree-planting program.

The government workers and employees have since circulated in their ranks a mimeographed sheet calling for organised opposition.

They want to know why they should be made to pay for reforestation "when it is the large foreign and domestic concessionaires led by Marcos himself who are responsible for the rape of our forests".

Pinpointing Marcos as "the biggest bureaucrat capitalist of all", they said the single largest forest concession in the country has been granted by Marcos to his own Cellophil Resources Corporation.

The CRC has a concession of 200,000 hectares in Northern Luzon and is capitalised at P2 billion. It is run by the notorious Marcos dummy, Herminio Disini, and has among its partners U.S., Japanese and European monopoly capitalists.

The government workers said that while the fascist regime is generous in granting large forest concessions to big foreign and local loggers, he coddles them further by exempting them from taxes, such as provided for in the Investment Incentives Act.

Plight of workers and employees

In contrast, they said, the regime exploits and oppresses workers and employees, as evidenced partially by the following:

1. Their salaries have risen only 6 percent since 1972 despite a more than 100 percent increase in prices. Small as their pay is, it is diminished further by deductions which average 12 percent a month. These include withholding taxes, benefit contributions and other forms of arbitrary impositions.

2. More than 92 percent of workers and employees in Metro Manila are not earning the P49 daily salary they need to meet even the most basic requirements. "Given the present trend of price increases," they said, "a family of six in Metro Manila should be earning at least P100 a day by 1985 to cover the basic necessities alone."

Buffeted by low wages and ever-increasing taxes, the government workers and employees said they and the rest of the Filipino people are being made to subsidize the regime's repression and extravagance.

They cited the state's principal instrument of repression--the parasitic Armed Forces of the Philippines--which will eat up P5.4 billion in 1979 in budgetary outlays alone. Funds also are usually diverted from other sources to sustain the fascist military.

The "barangays", which the regime is converting into its own civilian security force, received more than P240 million in dole-outs in 1978 in addition to their regular allocations, the government workers added.

"At the same time," they went on, "the dictatorship has to have ready cash to finance hotel constructions, beauty contests, almost weekly international conferences, golf fests, chess games and what-not to pork up a sagging international image..."

In organizing to fight any further deductions from their salaries and wages, for the reforestation program or for any other project of the fascist regime, the government workers and employees have in mind the laughing-stock that is Presidential Decree No. 1153.

The decree, promulgated in 1977, requires all citizens 10 years of age and above to plant 60 trees over a five-year period. The people are thereby being made to replenish forests that had been plundered by big foreign and local loggers, thanks to the U.S.-Marcos regime.

This "law" has not been implemented for the simple reason that the people refuse to follow it.

When a people act as one to resist oppression, no power on earth can make them follow its bidding.

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